

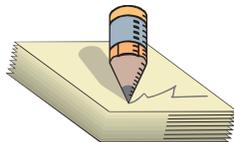
THE **VVFC NEWS ALERT**
BACKPAGE
 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008



PENTACEL AND/OR PEDIARIX SCHEDULE

Pentacel contains DTaP, IPV and Hib. Pediarix contains DTaP, IPV, and Hep B. Neither Pentacel nor Pediarix should be used prior to 6 weeks of age. Please refer to the enclosed chart to assist with introducing Pentacel using two different schedules, and to review the schedules for single antigen and Pediarix.

ROTATEQ AND ROTARIX?



For routine vaccination of infants, two different rotavirus vaccine products are licensed: RotaTeq and Rotarix. These vaccines differ in composition and schedule of administration. On June 25, 2008, the ACIP voted on new recommendations for the use of rotavirus vaccine. RotaTeq is to be administered orally in a 3-dose series with doses given at ages 2, 4, and 6 months. Rotarix is to be administered orally in a 2-dose series given at ages 2 and 4 months. The first dose of rotavirus vaccine should be administered from age 6 weeks through age 14 weeks 6 days. Vaccination should not be initiated for infants of age 15 weeks 0 days or older. The minimum interval between doses of rotavirus vaccine is 4 weeks. All doses should be administered by age 8 months 0 days.

While ACIP does not have a preference between RotaTeq and Rotarix, they do recommend that the rotavirus vaccine series be completed with the same product whenever possible. However, vaccination should NOT be deferred if the product used for previous doses is not available or is unknown. In this situation, the provider should continue or complete the series with the product available. If any dose in the series was RotaTeq or the product is unknown for any dose in the series, a total of three doses of rotavirus should be given.

Rotavirus vaccine should not be administered to infants who have a history of a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of rotavirus vaccine or to a vaccine component. Latex rubber is contained in the Rotarix oral applicator, so infants with a severe allergy to latex should not receive Rotarix. <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/provisional/downloads/roto-7-1-08-508.pdf>

ACTHIB ORDERS



We are still coping with the shortage of Hib-containing vaccines. Our monthly allotment of ActHib is exhausted quickly as held orders are filled first. After held orders from the previous month are filled, orders are being processed as they are received. Providers should continue to order one month's supply of Hib-containing vaccine on a monthly basis until further notice.

FLU VACCINE UPDATE



While older children seldom get as sick as infants and toddlers, this population catches the flu at higher rates. This year, the ACIP added children 5-18 years old to the previous influenza recommendations to vaccinate children 6 months-4 years of age. Now, influenza vaccination is recommended for all children aged 6 months up to their 19th birthday. Also new this year, live, attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) may be used to vaccinate healthy persons aged 2 through 49 years.

Flu vaccine is being distributed from McKesson as we are notified of its availability. VVFC FluMist vaccine orders are currently being filled. The injectable vaccine will be sent to providers as soon as it becomes available. Practices indicating a need for VVFC flu vaccine for healthy children 2-18 years are being sent FluMist. The flu vaccine you are going to receive was confirmed in writing in the June issue of the BackPage. Viable vaccine cannot be returned to McKesson; however, you can transfer vaccine you cannot use. Additional doses of flu vaccine are available. Current recommendations for influenza vaccine can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/downloads/resolutions/0208influenza.pdf>



VVFC AWARDS

Gold Stars awarded August 2008.

Outstanding VVFC Compliance

*Caroline Christian Health Center,
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